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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 28 April 1953

SUBJECT Armored Vehicles Produced at the V.I. Lenin Works, Pilsen

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GRADING OF SOURCE

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1. Armored tracked vehicles are being built at the Lenin Steel Works in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. They are assembled in five buildings, each about 250 meters long, which lie in the center of the Steel Works, between the two main railroad sidings. The buildings have large doors of the divided accordion-folding type which open onto a street along which the vehicles have been observed being driven in a westerly direction, toward Gate 8. It is assumed that the vehicles are on the way to a testing ground near the Pilsen air field which borders the Lenin Steel Works.
2. The following is a description of the armored vehicles:
  - a. The vehicles weigh approximately 30 tons and are about five meters long, 2.5 meters wide, and 2.5 - 2.8 meters tall from ground level to the top of the turret. From the ground level to the top of the hull, the vehicle is approximately 1.2 to 1.4 meters high. The height of the fixed turret is approximately .7 meters.
  - b. The gun barrel projects approximately 1.6 meters from the turret and is 75 mm in diameter. The barrel does not taper but is set into a sleeve approximately one-half the length of the barrel. The gun is set into the fixed turret and has no horizontal traverse. A 30 calibre machine gun is mounted in a ball swivel on each side of the 75 mm gun. A similar machine gun is mounted in the revolving turret directly above the main weapon.
  - c. The prow of the hull slopes at about a 45 degree angle and the sides of the hull slope upward at about the same angle. In addition to the hatch in the turret of the vehicle there is an escape hatch in the hull below each of the machine guns mounted in the turret. There are vision slits forward of each of the hull escape hatches. Vision slits and periscopes are also mounted in the turret above each of the machine guns. The hull of the vehicle is welded.
  - d. The turret consists of two parts, a lower fixed portion and an upper revolving cupola. The lower fixed portion has sloping sides while the upper cupola is round. Both parts of the turret are cast.

574  
25X1A

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- 2 -

A 30 mm machine gun in a ball turret is mounted on the cupola through which the tank commander enters the vehicle. The cupola can be revolved through 360 degrees.

- e. The road wheels are large and overcapped. (1) It is believed that this vehicle has a rear drive sprocket because, when turning, the rear of the vehicle remains relatively fixed while the forward part of the hull swings rapidly. It is estimated that the overall length of the track on the ground is approximately 3.5 to 4 meters and the width of the track is approximately .4 to .5 meters while the width between the tracks is approximately 1.75 meters. Ground clearance of the hull is approximately 40 centimeters. The track is assembled in two-link sections. The vehicles are believed to be powered by 24-cylinder diesel engines.
3. Armored cars, ten-wheeled, have also been observed driving in the Lenin Steel Works. These armored cars had eight wheels on the ground and an extra pair located in the center of the vehicle, but raised up above the ground. The hull and its turret looked like "two eggs pushed together." The only armament noted on this armored car was an air-cooled machine gun mounted in the turret.

25X1A (1) Comment: This is probably a Christy-type suspension.

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25X1A

- 3 -

